

**SUMMARY OF THE NPT @50 WORKSHOP ON ACCESS TO PEACEFUL
USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY UNER THE NPT FRAMEWROK, HELD IN
ABUJA NIGERIA ON 10 AND 11 DECEMBER 2019**

1. The Argentine Presidency of the 2020 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) had in furtherance of consultations ahead of the REVCON, accepted an offer by Nigeria to host a regional workshop focused on the third pillar of the Treaty. The workshop held on the 10 and 11 December 2019, was made possible by the generous funding provided by the Government of the United States of America.

2. Declared open by Ambassador Suleiman Mustapha Permanent Secretary of the Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the workshop was presided over by Ms. Luz MELON, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Argentine Republic to the IAEA. Representatives of the following countries from outside the Africa region participated in the opening session- the USA, Canada, China, United Kingdom, and the Holy See. From the Africa region, participants in the main sessions included Nigeria, Ghana, Benin Republic, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Uganda, Tunisia, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Gambia, Malawi, Morocco, Republic of Guinea, Namibia, Kenya, South Africa, Cameroun, Chad, Niger and Togo. The IAEA and AFCONE were also in attendance.

3. The first session of the Meeting titled ***Peaceful Uses and the NPT Framework*** was moderated by *Professor Simon Pesco MALLAM (Chairman of the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission)*. The panellists were *Dr. Aistide Talon* of Benin Republic and *Ambassador Vivian OKEKE* of Nigeria. The panel offered a befitting intro on the attachment of states in the region to Peaceful uses of nuclear energy and how the NPT was considered as the overarching framework which facilitated that access which some described as an “inalienable right”. The Panel demonstrated the efforts the region was making in the application of nuclear

science and technologies as typified by relevant examples from both Nigeria and Benin including benefits delivered through the IAEA TC Programme.

4. The second session was a recap of all the elements of the NPT, in particular the nature of discussions at PREPCOMS I, II and III of this Review cycle held in Vienna 2017, Geneva 2018 and New York 2019 respectively.

5. The third Session **Peaceful Uses and Sustainable Development** was moderated by *Madam Najat Mokhtar Deputy Director General, (Nuclear Applications) of the IAEA*. The panellists were Dr. Zeinabou Mindaoudou (President, Niger High Authority for Nuclear Energy HANEA), Dr. Mokhtar Hamdi Researcher at the Tunisian Centre for Nuclear Sciences and Technologies and Professor Yusuf Ahmed of the Centre for Energy Research and Training of Nigeria. The session addressed how parties to the NPT were successfully harmonising their sustainable development goals targets with other developmental objectives including Agenda 2030 and the Africa Developmental Agenda 2063 and utilising nuclear techniques as appropriate to address them, in both the long and short term. The session successfully demonstrated present success in this regard, but also highlighted expectations and priorities in the period ahead. Panellists also noted the challenges to sustainably implementing peaceful uses assistance in the African region, including lack of understanding of peaceful nuclear technology among the general population and decision makers, lack of finances, and challenges with sustaining appropriate levels of adequately-trained personnel in the region.

6. The 4th session titled “**Commitment to Global Cooperation the Role of the IAEA, Regional Organisations and Bilateral Assistance**” was moderated by *Mr. Hajaro SENOUSSI of the Africa Commission on Nuclear Energy* and had as panellists, - Mr. Martin KRAUSE of the IAEA TC Department, and Ms. Agnes DURING of the Sierra Leonean Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The session showcased the

level of support that could possibly be received by State Parties at international, regional and bilateral levels. Panellists demonstrated the need for and interest in nuclear science and technologies by African countries. They noted that African countries can learn from each other, and discussed possible regional coordinating mechanisms. In this regard, the lead role of the IAEA TC programme was highlighted together with the AFRA platform under its auspices and the benefits derived there from.

7. Day two opened with the 5th session of the workshop titled **National and Regional Perspectives on Nuclear Safety, Security and Non Proliferation**, which was moderated by Ms. Agnes DURING of the Sierra Leone Foreign Ministry. Panellists included Mr. Richard NDI SAMBA of the Cameroonian National Radiation Protection Agency, Dr. Idris Yau of the Nigeria Nuclear Regulatory Authority and Mr. Solomon Getachew of the Ethiopian Radiation Protection Authority. The session brought to the fore the appreciation of states in the region of the importance of safety, security and non-proliferation, and highlighted that they facilitate greater access to peaceful uses assistance. National efforts to meet these responsibilities were clearly demonstrated and the existing regulatory and legislative infrastructure was also highlighted. In this session as well, the reliance on IAEA guidelines, guidance, recommendations and advisory services was clearly stated.

8. The 6th session **Enhancing Relationships and Capacity Building- Priorities and Future Cooperation** was moderated by Ms. MELON of the Argentine Republic and had three distinguished Panellists, Dr. Akisophel KISOLO of the Ugandan Atomic Energy Commission, Ms. Mosa Rasweswe of the Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa, and Dr. Hironida Vaz Borges Spencer of Cape Verde. The Panel exemplified the support countries had received to build capacity in line with national priorities and attempted a synthesis of how relationships could be enhanced bilaterally and multilaterally to further these objectives. Ms.

Spencer described the deep challenges Cape Verde faces with human health that could be addressed with increased nuclear technology, a sentiment echoed by many countries in attendance.

9. The high point of the meeting was the breakout sessions in English and French respectively where participants offered their thoughts on the various panels and the questions arising from each. The report of each break out session presented in Plenary moderated by Mr. OKO Charles, Permanent Mission of Nigeria Vienna, established that Participants shared a common interest in the utilisation of nuclear techniques to achieve national developmental objectives, in a manner consistent with relevant international covenants and principles including those related to safety, security and non-proliferation. Amongst other thoughts distilled from the interactive sessions were:

- Interest to galvanise a regional approach to promote better communication with the public and with decision-makers, to highlight the benefits of nuclear technology and overcome negative stigma associated with it (conceived by many as synonymous with weapons and accidents like Chernobyl or Fukushima);
- Common aspiration to develop a strategy for unlocking greater funding for the Peaceful use of nuclear techniques for development of the region especially Human Health (cancer control) agenda under the NPT framework; and
- Concerns about capacity building and the need to develop and retain human resources appropriately trained for work in the nuclear sector, including for younger generations of Africans.

Summary:

As we approach the 50th Anniversary of the entry into force of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT), it is clear that the right to Peaceful Uses of nuclear Energy for developmental purposes as

guaranteed by the Treaty is increasingly of interest to African States. The workshop has established a strong interest in this connection and willingness by the participating states to take forward the process and seek collaboration, bilateral and international to unlock funding for projects in this regard.